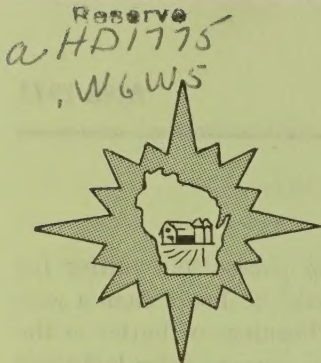


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Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during March fell below a year earlier for the first time since June 1970.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points increased from February to March but wholesale butter prices declined.

The Nation's production of cheese and butter during February was below a year ago with some of the decline due to the extra day in February last year.

Barrow and gilt prices at the St. Paul market declined sharply during March but were still higher than February and well above March 1972.

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants during February was about the same as a year earlier as an increase in the beef supply offset a lower output of pork.

Prices received for Wisconsin farm products as of mid-March were considerably above both a month and a year ago.

As the spring season began, the number of workers on Wisconsin farms was up 3 percent from last year.

Milk prices in Wisconsin for March are expected to exceed \$6.00 a hundredweight because of strong demand for fluid milk and manufactured dairy products.

Although the total pounds of meat animals marketed by Wisconsin farmers during 1972 were down 1 percent from 1971, cash receipts for livestock were up 26 percent.

Stocks of dairy products in cold storage in the Nation at the end of March were above last year but meat stocks were down.

Wisconsin cattle feeders had 1 percent fewer cattle and calves on feed April 1 than a year earlier but the 23 major feeding states had an increase of 5 percent.

MILK PRODUCTION FALLS BELOW YEAR AGO

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during March totaled 1,732 million pounds, down 2 percent from a year ago. This was the first time since June 1970 that milk production in Wisconsin was below a year earlier. Production increased seasonally 13 percent from February to March.

During the first quarter of 1973, milk production on Wisconsin farms was slightly under the comparable quarter last year. Output of milk per cow averaged 950 pounds for March, a decline of 10 pounds from the previous year. Daily feeding of grain and other concentrates to Wisconsin milk cows averaged 13.6 pounds per cow on April 1, down 1 pound from that date last year.

The Nation's milk production for March was 2 percent under a year ago. Daily average production was 3 percent above February compared with a 4 percent increase for the corresponding period last year. Output per cow averaged 894 pounds in March, about the same as a year earlier. Feeding of grain and concentrates averaged 13.8 pounds per cow on April 1, slightly higher than the 13.6 pounds fed on that date in 1972.

Milk Production

Selected States	March 1972	March 1973	Jan.-March 1973	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-March
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,759	1,732	4,825	- 2	n. c.
Minnesota	921	904	2,560	- 2	- 3
Iowa	392	386	1,086	- 2	- 3
New York	918	871	2,439	- 5	- 6
Pennsylvania . .	608	586	1,654	- 4	- 7
California	882	909	2,495	+ 3	+ 2
Other states . . .	5,007	4,933	13,947	- 1	- 2
United States . .	10,487	10,321	29,006	- 2	- 2

MARCH MILK PRICE EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$6.00

Strong demand for fluid milk and manufactured dairy products has pushed the all milk price over the \$6.00 level for March. Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive an average of \$6.01 a hundredweight for all milk of average

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test delivered to plants and dealers during March. This would be 7 cents above February and 51 cents higher than March last year. In 1972 milk prices increased 2 cents from February to March.

February milk prices averaged \$5.94 a hundredweight, down 1 cent from January but 46 cents above February 1972. The average milkfat content for February was 3.73 percent compared with 3.74 percent a year earlier.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$6.08 a hundredweight in February, the same as January but 43 cents more than the previous year. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$5.76 a hundredweight during February, a decline of 1 cent from a month earlier but up 48 cents from last year. The spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 32 cents in February compared with 37 cents for February 1972.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	January 1973		February price per cwt.			March 1973 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1972	1973	73/72 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.77	5.95	5.48	5.94	+ 8	6.01
Minnesota	3.65	5.61	5.12	5.59	+ 9	5.61
Iowa	3.83	5.83	5.41	5.83	+ 8	5.78
New York	3.62	6.80	6.35	6.85	+ 8	6.60
California	3.83	6.00	5.75	6.05	+ 5	6.10
United States	3.79	6.55	6.10	6.56	+ 8	6.50
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.77	6.08	5.65	6.08	+ 8	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.77	5.77	5.28	5.76	+ 9	xxx
Creameries	3.77	5.60	5.19	5.59	+ 8	xxx
Cheese factories	3.77	5.79	5.29	5.78	+ 9	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.78	5.66	5.22	5.65	+ 8	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Feb. 1972	Jan. 1973	Feb. 1973 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.13	5.52	5.57	+ 9
Market milk	5.27	5.65	5.71	+ 8
Manufacturing milk	4.96	5.36	5.40	+ 9
Creameries	4.92	5.20	5.26	+ 7
American cheese plants	4.96	5.38	5.42	+ 9
Varied products plants	4.92	5.24	5.30	+ 8
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	5.60	5.98	6.02	+ 8

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

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CHEESE AND BUTTER OUTPUT EXPECTED TO BE LOWER

Weekly estimates of American cheese and butter for March indicate that production could be lower than a year ago in Wisconsin and the Nation. Churnings of butter in the Nation for March may be down 16 percent from last year. February's output was 15 percent under a year earlier. Wisconsin creameries were making less butter than a year ago in the second half of March and output for the month could be lower than March 1972.

National production of American cheese for March is expected to be 3 percent under last year, following a 2 percent decline in February. Wisconsin cheese plants also produced less American cheese in March than a year ago. Production of American cheese in Wisconsin during the first two months of 1973 was about the same as in 1972.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
February.	84,437	- 15	- 5	120,145	- 2	n. c.
Jan.-Feb.	180,579	- 10	- 2	243,648	- 1	n. c.
Weeks ending						
March 8.	20,250	- 14	n. c.	31,300	- 2	n. c.
March 15.	20,450	- 12	+ 6	31,750	- 4	- 2
March 22.	19,950	- 18	- 8	32,900	- 3	- 3
March 29.	20,500	- 17	- 5	33,450	- 5	- 3
Total	81,150	- 16	xxx	129,400	- 3	xxx

CHEESE AND BUTTER PRODUCTION LOWER

The Nation's production of cheese and butter during February was below a year ago. Some of this decline was due to the extra day in February 1972. Total cheese production in the Nation during February was 2 percent under last year while output of butter was down 15 percent.

Production of American cheese in the Nation for February was 2 percent lower than a year earlier. Wisconsin and Missouri showed little change in their output of American cheese during February compared with last year. Minnesota produced 9 percent more American cheese in February this year than a year ago but all other states had a decline of 9 percent.

Swiss cheese production in the Nation during February was up 3 percent from February 1972. Declines of 1 percent were shown by Italian and Brick and Muenster, while production of all other cheese was down 5 percent.

Wisconsin creameries churned 5 percent less butter in February than a year ago. Sharp declines of 25 percent for Minnesota and 26 percent for Iowa contributed to the drop in National butter production from February last year. All other states combined produced 12 percent less butter in February than a year earlier.

The Nation's output of cottage cheese in February was also below the previous year but ice cream production remained unchanged.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Feb. 1972	Feb. 1973	Jan.- Feb. 1973	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	17,540	16,600	33,750	- 5	- 2
Minnesota	24,700	18,500	38,400	- 25	- 22
Iowa	7,720	5,750	11,950	- 26	- 23
Other states	49,430	43,587	96,479	- 12	- 5
United States	99,390	84,437	180,579	- 15	- 10
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	56,000	55,900	112,300	n. c.	n. c.
Minnesota	15,900	17,400	36,100	+ 9	+ 13
Missouri	5,000	5,000	10,200	n. c.	- 4
Other states	45,985	41,845	85,048	- 9	- 8
United States	122,885	120,145	243,648	- 2	- 1
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	13,250	13,695	28,606	+ 3	+ 5
Brick and Muenster	5,900	5,853	11,117	- 1	- 5
Italian	40,930	40,512	82,666	- 1	+ 4
All other	14,175	13,527	30,574	- 5	- 1
Total	74,450	73,587	152,963	- 1	+ 2
ALL CHEESE					
United States	197,335	193,732	396,611	- 2	n. c.
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	64,620	64,186	130,628	- 1	+ 2
Creamed 2/	86,115	81,859	167,974	- 5	- 1
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,400	1,400	2,750	n. c.	- 1
Illinois	2,650	3,500	6,900	+ 32	+ 31
Iowa	560	510	1,020	- 9	- 9
Michigan	2,780	2,800	5,560	+ 1	+ 8
Minnesota	2,230	2,325	4,560	+ 4	+ 8
Other states	47,460	46,444	91,128	- 2	- 1
United States	57,080	56,979	111,918	n. c.	+ 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

WHOLESALE CHEESE PRICES HIGHER

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points increased from February to March. Block Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 79.65 cents a pound during March. This was more than 1½ cents above February and exceeded March last year by over 7 cents. Cheddar cheese, 40 pound blocks, averaged 65.19 cents a pound in March, up nearly 1½ cents from the previous month and 5½ cents above a year ago.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	March 1972	February 1973	March 1973 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	68.75¢	68.67¢	64.96¢ 3/
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	59.65¢	63.75¢	65.19¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/ . . .	72.50¢	78.00¢	79.65¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$7.70-9.10	\$8.25-9.48	\$ — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	31.44¢	40.34¢	41.99¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points. 3/93-score average.

Wholesale prices of 93-score butter at New York averaged almost 65 cents a pound for March. This compares with a price of about 69 cents in February and 68¾ cents in March 1972.

CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS HIGHER

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of March were higher than a year earlier. There were 121 million pounds of butter in cold storage on March 31, an increase of 10 percent from last year. Government owned butter stocks amounted to 105 million pounds, up 24 percent from March 31, 1972.

Total cheese in cold storage at the end of March was 303 million pounds, a gain of 6 percent from a year ago. American cheese stocks were up 9 percent and stocks of Swiss cheese increased 16 percent. Stocks of all other cheese were 10 percent under March 31, 1972.

American cheese stocks in cold storage totaled 247 million pounds at the end of March. This was about 20 million pounds more than a year earlier. The Government held only 164,000 pounds of American cheese in cold storage on March 31 compared with almost a million pounds last year.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	March 31, 1971	March 31, 1972	March 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter	157,906	110,104	121,228	+ 10
Cheese, American	236,281	226,707	246,942	+ 9
Cheese, Swiss	11,599	7,103	8,257	+ 16
Cheese, all other	54,247	53,506	48,198	- 10
Cheese, total	302,127	287,316	303,397	+ 6
WISCONSIN				
Butter	5,707	4,764	5,676	+ 19
Cheese, American	145,681	130,792	163,605	+ 25
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	126,940	84,762	104,953	+ 24
Cheese, American	930	948	164	- 83

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

Commodity	Feb. 28, 1971	Feb. 29, 1972	Feb. 28, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	4,768	3,933	4,112	+ 5
Dried skim milk	99,920	64,588	37,779	- 42
Dried buttermilk	10,147	4,024	4,068	+ 1
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . . .	69,390	63,984	55,159	- 14

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

1972 LIVESTOCK CASH RECEIPTS UP SHARPLY

Although the total pounds of meat animals marketed by Wisconsin farmers during 1972 were down 1 percent from 1971, cash receipts for livestock were up 26 percent. Cash receipts from the sale of cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep and lambs totaled \$456 million for 1972.

Prices received for cattle and calves reached a record high for 1972. Cattle averaged \$26.70 a hundredweight, an increase of \$4.20 from 1971. Calves averaged \$47.30 a hundredweight in 1972, up \$7.50 from a year earlier.

Hogs also achieved a record price for 1972. At \$24.90 a hundredweight, hogs were \$7.10 more than in 1971 and 70 cents above the previous high in 1947. Lambs averaged \$27.40 a hundredweight in 1972, a gain of \$2.60 from 1971 and the highest since 1951. Sheep averaged \$6.10 a hundredweight during 1972, up 50 cents from a year earlier.

On the pound basis, marketings of cattle and calves in

1972 were up 8 percent from 1971 while cash receipts increased 27 percent. Total pounds of hogs marketed in 1972 were down 12 percent from the previous year but cash receipts rose 23 percent. Marketings of sheep and lambs during 1972 were up 7 percent from 1971 on the pound basis and cash receipts gained 16 percent.

Cattle and Calves: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1963-72

Year	Production 1/	Marketings 2/	Price per 100 pounds		Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Cattle	Calves				
	1,000 pounds		Dollars			1,000 dollars		
1963	1,025,325	939,565	14.80	24.00	153,755	8,294	162,049	7,166
1964	1,106,965	999,605	13.70	22.30	149,881	7,856	157,737	5,708
1965	1,054,655	1,216,095	14.70	23.60	192,568	8,071	200,639	5,572
1966	982,275	1,067,117	17.90	28.40	205,755	9,849	215,604	9,139
1967	998,005	1,017,580	17.90	29.00	197,730	10,849	208,579	8,593
1968	983,860	1,002,279	18.50	31.30	203,775	10,839	214,614	8,286
1969	974,775	971,847	21.10	34.50	224,109	14,231	238,340	11,638
1970	1,037,190	942,058	22.00	38.10	230,039	18,161	248,200	14,256
1971	1,016,690	906,412	22.50	39.80	229,887	19,594	249,481	3/
1972	1,028,990	981,662	26.70	47.30	293,017	21,407	314,424	3/

Hogs: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1963-72

Year	Production 1/	Marketings 2/	Price per 100 pounds	Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
	1,000 pounds		Dollars		1,000 dollars		
1963	761,427	742,772	14.60	108,726	3,747	112,473	26
1964	718,763	742,322	14.60	108,247	3,659	111,906	36
1965	642,695	658,070	18.90	124,375	3,353	127,728	47
1966	682,540	623,196	23.20	144,581	3,790	148,371	101
1967	678,734	661,846	18.80	124,427	2,978	127,405	97
1968	720,904	706,649	18.30	129,317	3,352	132,669	30
1969	657,487	656,894	21.90	143,860	3,548	147,408	84
1970	716,766	678,538	22.50	152,671	3,544	156,215	96
1971	726,983	732,262	17.80	130,343	2,703	133,046	3/
1972	621,731	642,394	24.90	159,956	3,502	163,458	3/

Sheep and Lambs: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1963-72

Year	Production 1/	Marketings 2/	Price per 100 pounds		Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Sheep	Lambs				
	1,000 pounds		Dollars			1,000 dollars		
1963	12,809	16,022	4.50	17.20	2,445	34	2,479	200
1964	11,847	14,467	4.70	19.00	2,467	37	2,504	210
1965	12,036	13,713	5.20	21.20	2,684	44	2,729	236
1966	11,346	12,647	5.60	22.00	2,591	60	2,651	367
1967	11,857	12,804	5.30	20.90	2,471	51	2,522	181
1968	12,140	13,763	5.30	23.30	2,798	60	2,858	291
1969	10,257	13,272	6.70	26.50	2,994	37	3,031	287
1970	9,796	12,211	6.20	25.10	2,657	35	2,692	265
1971	8,577	10,067	5.60	24.80	2,231	35	2,266	3/
1972	8,312	10,799	6.10	27.40	2,591	38	2,629	3/

1/Adjustments made for numbers shipped in and changes in inventory. 2/Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/Discontinued.

FARM PRODUCT PRICES UP SHARPLY IN MARCH

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for farm products as of mid-March were considerably above both a month and a year earlier. Hay and oats were the only commodities to show a decline from February to March. The prices received index averaged 451 percent of the 1910-14 base on March 15, an increase of 27 points (6 percent) from a month earlier and 88 points (24 percent) above March 1972.

Livestock prices continued to climb for the period ending March 15. Steers and heifers averaged \$42.50 a hundredweight in March, up almost \$4.00 from February and \$10.70

higher than a year ago. Slaughter cows, at \$33.00 a hundredweight for March, were \$2.80 above the previous month and \$9.00 greater than last year.

Calves advanced to \$58.00 a hundredweight for mid-March. This was an increase of \$7.00 from February and \$11.00 more than March 1972. Hog prices averaged \$37.50 a hundredweight in March, a gain of \$4.20 from a month earlier and \$14.30 above a year ago.

Sheep brought \$8.50 a hundredweight for March, up 50 cents from February and \$2.70 more than last year. Lambs averaged \$34.00 as of mid-March, an increase of \$2.80 from the previous month and \$7.00 higher than March 1972. The

mid-March wool price of 66 cents a pound was the highest since December 1951. Wool prices were up 19 cents from February and 46 cents above a year ago.

Egg prices averaged 47 cents a dozen as of March 15, a gain of 4 cents from a month earlier and 20 cents more than the previous year. Turkeys, at 28 cents a pound liveweight for March, were up 4 cents from February and 6 cents above last year.

Prices for hay and oats continued to ease downward. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$34.50 a ton in mid-March, down \$1.50 from February and \$2.50 below the January high. Oats, at 85 cents a bushel as of March 15, was 2 cents less than February and 4 cents under the peak reached in January. Corn averaged \$1.32 a bushel for March, up 5 cents from February and 19 cents above a year ago. Soybeans reached \$6.00 a bushel in mid-March, an increase of 90 cents from the previous month and \$2.85 more than March 1972.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	March 1971	March 1972	February 1973	March 1973
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	385.00	430.00	490.00	540.00
Steers and heifers ..	Cwt.	27.80	31.80	38.60	42.50
Cows	Cwt.	20.50	24.00	30.20	33.00
Calves	Cwt.	38.00	47.00	51.00	58.00
Hogs	Cwt.	17.10	23.20	33.30	37.50
Sheep	Cwt.	6.00	5.80	8.00	8.50
Lambs	Cwt.	25.50	27.00	31.20	34.00
Wool	Lb.	.25	.27	.47	.66
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.075	.090	.100	.120
Turkeys	Lb.	.210	.220	.240	.280
Eggs	Doz.	.280	.270	.430	.470
Corn	Bu.	1.44	1.13	1.27	1.32
Oats	Bu.	.74	.72	.87	.85
Soybeans	Bu.	2.77	3.15	5.10	6.00
Alfalfa hay, baled ..	Ton	21.50	23.00	36.00	34.50

1/Excludes broilers.

MORE WORKERS ON FARMS THIS SPRING

As the spring season began, the number of workers on Wisconsin farms was up 3 percent from a year ago. During the

Farm Workers and Wages
Wisconsin and United States

Item	Wisconsin		United States	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
March				
Farm Workers 1/				
Hired	15,000	16,000	883,100	869,300
Family	154,000	158,000	3,017,300	2,983,100
Total	169,000	174,000	3,900,400	3,852,400
April 1				
	1972	1973	1972	1973
Wage Rates 2/				
By the month				
With house	\$383.00	\$411.00	\$352.00	\$383.00
With board and room ...	293.00	313.00	274.00	303.00
By the day				
With board and room ...	11.60	13.10	11.10	12.20
Without board and room .	15.20	16.60	12.80	14.10
By the hour				
No board or room	1.87	2.02	1.84	1.97

1/Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. 2/Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above.

survey week of March 18-24, the State's farm labor force consisted of 16,000 hired workers and 158,000 farm operators and unpaid family members. The number of hired workers was 1,000 more than a year earlier and averaged about one person for every seven Wisconsin farms. Family workers were 4,000 greater than in the comparable survey week last year.

Wages paid to hired help continued to increase. Wage rates as of April 1 averaged \$411.00 a month with a house and \$313.00 with board and room. Rates with a house were up \$28.00 from a year ago while rates with board and room increased \$20.00.

Hired workers employed by the day were receiving an average of \$13.10 with board and room and \$16.60 without board and room. These rates were more than \$1.00 above a year earlier. Hourly rates averaged \$2.02 without board or room, a gain of 15 cents from April 1, 1972.

WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN BUT PRICES HIGHER

Wool production in Wisconsin and Nation during 1972 was down from 1971 but prices increased. The 1972 wool crop in Wisconsin totaled 951,000 pounds, 1 percent below 1971 and the smallest production ever. Fleece weight averaged 8.2 pounds in 1972 compared with 8.1 pounds in 1971

Wool Production

Major States and United States	Number of sheep shorn		Weight per fleece		Wool production		
	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Pounds		1,000 pounds		Percent
Pennsylvania	144	138	7.3	7.3	1,051	1,007	- 4
Ohio	612	608	8.2	8.2	5,015	4,959	- 1
Indiana	224	216	7.4	7.7	1,659	1,657	n. c.
Illinois	282	280	7.3	7.4	2,060	2,071	+ 1
Michigan	211	221	8.0	8.3	1,682	1,841	+ 9
Wisconsin	119	116	8.1	8.2	960	951	- 1
Minnesota	428	423	8.1	8.1	3,468	3,430	- 1
Iowa	703	717	7.5	7.7	5,292	5,545	+ 5
Missouri	211	212	7.9	8.2	1,662	1,740	+ 5
North Dakota	325	315	9.3	9.3	3,020	2,930	- 3
South Dakota	1,051	1,160	9.3	9.1	9,779	10,504	+ 7
Nebraska	348	363	7.5	7.3	2,610	2,644	+ 1
Kansas	310	320	8.8	8.8	2,715	2,800	+ 3
Virginia	177	163	6.2	6.1	1,097	994	- 9
Oklahoma	115	124	8.4	7.9	971	985	+ 1
Texas	4,164	4,145	7.3	7.1	30,397	29,430	- 3
Montana	902	853	9.6	10.0	8,657	8,501	- 2
Idaho	690	659	10.7	10.5	7,370	6,949	- 6
Wyoming	1,634	1,576	10.1	10.2	16,512	16,062	- 3
Colorado	1,410	1,360	8.8	8.4	12,365	11,473	- 7
New Mexico	705	668	9.4	9.2	6,635	6,134	- 8
Arizona	497	492	7.6	7.5	3,772	3,692	- 2
Utah	960	896	9.5	10.3	9,167	9,218	+ 1
Nevada	170	158	10.3	10.3	1,751	1,627	- 7
Washington	144	134	9.0	9.3	1,296	1,240	- 4
Oregon	595	621	7.3	7.8	4,360	4,823	+ 11
California	1,423	1,390	8.1	8.4	11,580	11,655	+ 1
United States	19,036	18,778	8.4	8.4	160,157	157,881	- 1

but the number of sheep shorn was down 3 percent. The average price per pound received for wool in Wisconsin was 27 cents for 1972, up 4 cents from a year earlier. Nationally, shorn wool production declined 1 percent in 1972 from the previous year. Ranchers and farmers in the Nation received an average price of 35 cents per pound for wool in 1972 compared with less than 20 cents in 1971.

POULTRY INCOME LOWER IN 1972

Cash income from the sale of farm chickens, broilers, and eggs totaled almost \$38 million in 1972, a decline of 7 percent from 1971. Egg production for 1972 was down 2 percent from a year earlier but income from the sale of eggs dropped 9 percent. Egg prices averaged nearly 26 cents a dozen in 1972, a decline of 2 cents from 1971. Income from

the sale of farm chickens in 1972 was up 5 percent from the previous year.

Although the price per pound for broilers was up slightly more than ½ cent in 1972, gross income declined 4 percent due to lower sales. The price per pound for turkeys remained unchanged from 1971 but gross income and pounds marketed were up 22 percent.

CHICKENS: Production, Disposition, and Income, Wisconsin, 1965-72

Year	Production and disposition of chickens						Income from chickens				Cash income from farm chickens, broilers and eggs 1/
	Number				Sold		Cash income	Value of chickens consumed on farms	Gross income		
	Raised	Lost	Produced	Consumed on farms	Number	Weight					
						Sold				Produced	
	1,000 head					1,000 pounds		1,000 dollars			
1965	5,125	1,334	3,791	1,138	3,350	15,410	18,254	1,202	391	1,593	42,635
1966	5,484	1,059	4,425	819	3,356	15,773	20,821	1,325	303	1,628	49,660
1967	4,716	936	3,780	901	3,318	15,595	18,015	1,060	282	1,342	38,599
1968	4,340	700	3,640	901	3,563	16,746	15,796	1,088	269	1,357	40,037
1969	4,600	694	3,906	865	3,433	16,822	18,658	1,144	276	1,420	46,434
1970	5,900	680	5,220	760	3,204	16,020	24,774	1,185	259	1,444	45,621
1971	5,050	890	4,160	560	3,600	18,000	20,962	1,494	214	1,708	40,925
1972	4,536	720	3,816	500	3,700	18,500	19,315	1,573	196	1,769	37,876

1/Includes gross income for broilers. Consumption in households of producers is less than 1 percent of production in Wisconsin.

EGGS: Production, Disposition, and Income, Wisconsin, 1965-72

Year	Average number of layers during year	Eggs per layer	Production and disposition			Income			
			Produced	Consumed on farms	Sold	Price per dozen	Cash income	Value of eggs consumed on farms	Gross income
	1,000	Number	Million eggs			Cents	1,000 dollars		
1965	6,664	221	1,470	75	1,395	28.9	33,596	1,806	35,402
1966	6,269	222	1,392	64	1,328	36.1	39,951	1,925	41,876
1967	6,121	226	1,385	61	1,324	26.9	29,680	1,367	31,047
1968	5,599	224	1,256	58	1,198	30.4	30,349	1,469	31,818
1969	5,036	226	1,139	49	1,090	39.1	35,516	1,597	37,113
1970	5,225	225	1,178	44	1,134	37.5	35,438	1,375	36,813
1971	5,890	228	1,344	35	1,309	28.0	30,543	817	31,360
1972	5,806	226	1,313	26	1,287	25.9	27,778	561	28,339

TURKEYS AND BROILERS: Production, Disposition, and Income, Wisconsin, 1965-72

Year	Turkeys							Broilers			
	Number on farms January 1			Production		Price per pound	Gross income 1/	Production		Price per pound	Gross income 1/
	Heavy breeds	Light breeds	All breeds	Number	Sold			Number	Sold		
	1,000			1,000	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars	1,000	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars
1965	191	39	230	5,375	87,150	22.0	19,173	12,576	47,789	16.4	7,837
1966	250	41	291	5,519	91,919	23.1	21,233	13,959	54,440	15.4	8,384
1967	360	11	371	5,068	90,376	18.9	17,081	14,238	56,952	13.8	7,859
1968	330	3	333	3,997	73,802	20.1	14,834	14,238	56,952	15.1	8,600
1969	200	7	207	3,166	59,167	22.6	13,372	14,807	60,709	16.1	9,774
1970	185	7	192	3,489	66,640	23.1	15,394	15,031	61,627	14.6	8,998
1971	164	7	171	3,498	64,013	22.2	14,211	14,950	61,295	14.5	8,888
1972	2/	2/	2/	4,009	78,176	22.2	17,355	13,130	56,459	15.1	8,525

1/Includes consumption in households of producers which is less than 1 percent of production for the United States. 2/Estimate for all turkeys discontinued.

RED MEAT OUTPUT ABOUT THE SAME AS A YEAR AGO

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants during February totaled 96½ million pounds, about the same as a year ago. Although output of beef was up 12 percent from last year, pork production was down 15 percent.

Cattle slaughter for February numbered 101,000, an increase of 11,000 from the previous year. Average liveweight of cattle in February was 1,138 pounds, 1 pound less than last year. The hog kill for February totaled 234,000, a decline

of 39,000 from February 1972. Hog liveweight averaged 231 pounds in February, 1 pound lighter than a year earlier.

Calf slaughter continued to show a sharp decline. Only 18,800 calves were butchered in February compared with 28,000 for that month in 1972. The average liveweight of calves was 176 pounds for February, up 32 pounds from the previous year. February's sheep and lamb slaughter amounted to 200 compared with 100 a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	February		Change from last year	February	
	1972	1973		1972	1973
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	90.0	101.0	+ 12	102.5	114.9
United States 1/ ..	2,774.1	2,668.1	- 4	2,900.0	2,794.1
Calves					
Wisconsin	28.0	18.8	- 33	4.0	3.3
United States 1/ ..	276.6	206.4	- 25	66.8	52.7
Hogs					
Wisconsin	273.0	234.0	- 14	63.3	54.1
United States 1/ ..	6,828.8	6,087.5	- 11	1,600.8	1,441.6
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin1	.2	+ 100	.010	.019
United States 1/ ..	830.9	721.0	- 13	89.7	78.7

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

MEAT STOCKS STILL BELOW A YEAR AGO

Meat stocks in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of March continued below a year ago. Although beef stocks were 25 percent greater than on March 31, 1972, pork supplies were down 27 percent. The 684 million pounds of meat in cold storage at the end of March were 7 percent lower than last year.

Beef stocks amounted to almost 358 million pounds on March 31, a gain of 72 million pounds from the previous year but down 10 million pounds from a month earlier. Pork stocks of 239 million pounds were up more than 35 million pounds from February 28 but were 88 million pounds under March 31 last year.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	Mar. 31, 1971	Mar. 31, 1972	Feb. 28, 1973	Mar. 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	293,462	276,042	356,231	347,175	+ 26
In cure and cured	8,601	9,999	11,412	10,696	+ 7
Total	302,063	286,041	367,643	357,871	+ 25
Pork:					
Frozen	359,562	306,181	189,706	223,147	- 27
In cooler	27,433	21,527	13,998	16,162	- 25
Total	386,995	327,708	203,704	239,309	- 27
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,887	8,538	15,157	11,410	+ 34
Lamb and mutton, frozen ..	20,403	12,238	11,297	9,938	- 19
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	51,580	75,970	47,830	49,777	- 34
Other meats	19,185	21,864	15,055	15,936	- 27
Total, all meats	789,113	732,359	660,686	684,241	- 7

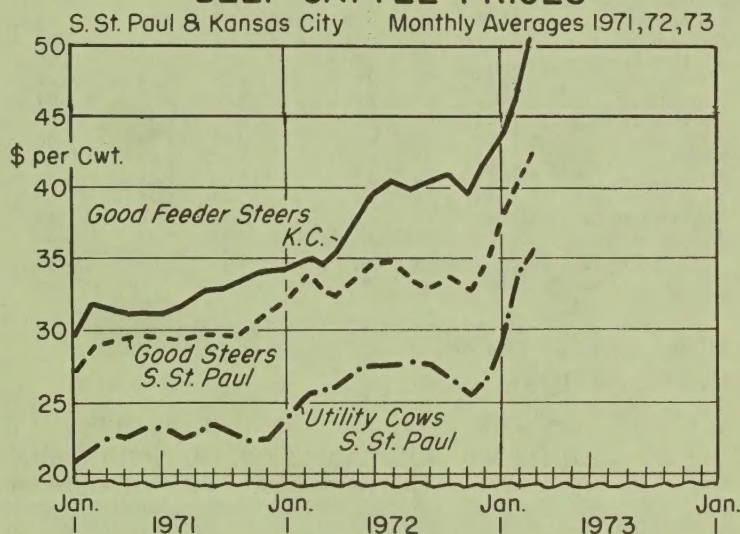
BEEF MARKET UP AGAIN

The market for feeder steers, utility cows, and fed steers showed another increase from February to March. Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds topped \$50.00 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market in March. Feeder steers, at \$50.31 a hundredweight for March, were up \$3.87 from February and \$15.56 higher than March 1972. The

market for feeder steers did drop nearly \$3.00 a hundredweight in the last week of March.

Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$42.68 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market in March. This was a gain of \$2.65 from a month earlier and \$9.79 above last year. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$35.50 a hundredweight during March. Although the utility cow market declined about \$3.50 in the last week of March, the monthly average was still \$2.22 more than February and \$9.62 greater than March a year ago.

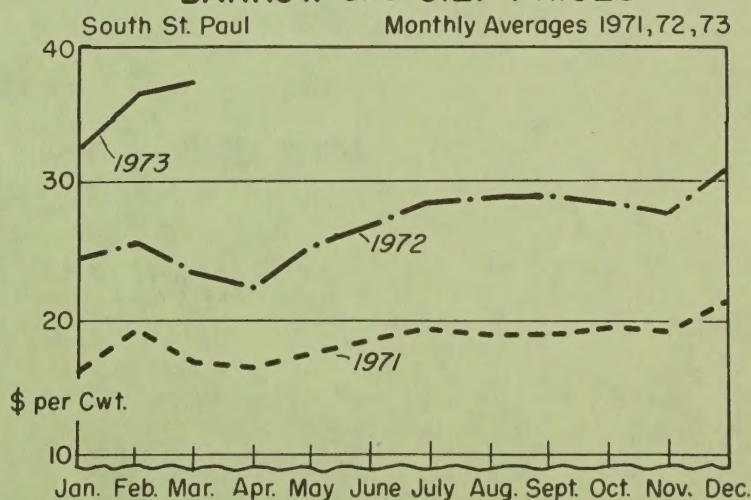
BEEF CATTLE PRICES



HOG MARKET HIGHER IN MARCH

Although the hog market declined sharply during March, the average price of barrows and gilts at St. Paul was still up from February and well above March 1972. Barrows and gilts at St. Paul declined more than \$5.00 during March but the monthly average of \$37.71 a hundredweight was \$1.20 more than February and \$14.22 above a year ago. Since November 1972, prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul have risen \$10.00 a hundredweight.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



Weather Summary, March, 1973

Station	Temperature				Precipitation		
	Low	High	Mean	Normal	For month	Normal	Accumulative departure since Jan. 1
Amery	16	60	37	26	1.41	1.34	+ .10
Superior	18	49	32	25	1.91	1.52	- .58
Spooner	14	61	38	26	1.57	1.28	+ .60
Rhineland	16	59	35	25	4.09	1.49	+ 1.94
Medford	16	59	37	26	3.59	1.70	+ .96
Marinette	21	61	39	30	2.46	1.54	+ .92
Antigo	17	60	37	27	4.54	1.44	+ 2.61
River Falls	19	63	40	28	1.84	1.70	+ .64
La Crosse	21	67	42	31	3.69	2.07	+ 1.61
Hatfield Dam	9	66	39	28	3.53	1.64	+ 2.80
Marshfield	19	62	40	27	3.05	1.62	+ 1.25
Hancock	14	67	40	28	4.54	1.43	+ 3.02
Green Bay	21	62	40	28	2.43	1.34	+ 1.44
Oshkosh	18	64	39	30	3.11	1.57	+ 2.72
Sheboygan	23	55	39	32	2.00	1.98	+ .04
Manitowoc	23	53	38	31	1.88	1.99	- .28
Lancaster	22	66	44	32	3.60	2.16	+ 1.44
Darlington	21	68	42	33	4.07	1.95	+ 2.65
Hillsboro	16	64	41	30	3.64	1.88	+ .88
Portage	18	67	41	32	4.73	1.86	+ 3.05
Madison	18	68	42	30	5.04	1.84	+ 3.41
Beloit	24	70	44	35	3.09	1.94	+ .79
Lake Geneva	22	68	43	34	3.34	2.55	+ .49
Milwaukee (airport) ..	26	68	40	31	2.86	2.31	- .05
Average for 24 stations	19	63	40	29	3.17	1.76	+ 1.35

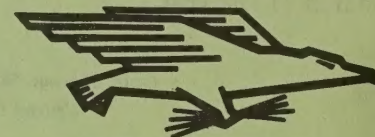
MORE CATTLE ON FEED
IN THE NATION

Cattle feeders in the Nation had 5 percent more cattle and calves on feed April 1 than a year ago. The North Central States were up just 1 percent but the Western States had an

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increase of 9 percent. Wisconsin cattle feeders had 129,000 cattle and calves on feed April 1, a decline of 1,000 from last year.

Cattle and Calves on Feed by Quarters,
April 1, 1972, January 1, and April 1, 1973 1/

State	April 1, 1972	January 1, 1973	April 1, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 head			Percent
Pennsylvania	81	87	79	- 2
Ohio	288	300	285	- 1
Indiana	297	276	253	- 15
Illinois	605	585	560	- 7
Michigan	211	245	230	+ 9
Wisconsin	130	143	129	- 1
Minnesota	513	494	500	- 3
Iowa	2,063	1,981	2,022	- 2
Missouri	318	310	270	- 15
North Dakota	53	47	50	- 6
South Dakota	325	378	345	+ 6
Nebraska	1,456	1,581	1,520	+ 4
Kansas	1,050	1,250	1,230	+ 17
N. C. States	7,390	7,677	7,473	+ 1
Oklahoma	259	272	274	+ 6
Texas	1,854	2,245	2,259	+ 22
Montana	150	160	140	- 7
Idaho	227	205	192	- 15
Colorado	947	1,050	946	n. c.
New Mexico	196	226	230	+ 17
Arizona	547	655	614	+ 12
Washington	174	180	180	+ 3
Oregon	59	69	60	+ 2
California	1,017	1,181	1,046	+ 3
Western States	5,430	6,243	5,941	+ 9
23 States	12,820	13,920	13,414	+ 5

1/Cattle and calves on feed are animals fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates which are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.

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